

FEDLINK Large Federal Library of the Year – FY16 Nomination Packet

NASA Goddard Information & Collaboration Center, Greenbelt, Maryland

Attached please find:

- Nomination Form (two pages)
- Selection Criteria Statements for Large Federal Library of the Year
- Customer Testimonials
- Letter of Support
- Brochure

Nomination Form

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FEDLINK Library/Information Center of the Year Award

INSTRUCTIONS: Please save a copy of this Nomination Form, complete the form in Word, print a copy and get signatures on (current) page 2*, and email or fax a copy with the Selection Criteria Statements and Supporting Materials to fliccfpe@loc.gov or 202-707-4828. All Nominations must be faxed or emailed no later than Friday, January 16, 2017. If you do not receive confirmation within one week, please contact Lizzie Daniels by phone at 202-707-4813. **(Completed form will probably be longer than 2 pages.)*

Use the exemplars at http://www.loc.gov/flicc/Awards/previous_year_exemplars.html as a guide in completing the application packet and writing the Selection Criteria Statements.

Please complete the boxes below. They will expand as you type.

NOMINEE:

Library/Information Center Name: **Goddard Information and Collaboration Center (GIC²)**

Name of Director/Head: **Robin Dixon**

Agency: **NASA Goddard Space Flight Center**

Library/Information Center Address: **8800 Greenbelt Rd**

City: **Greenbelt** State: **MD** Zip: **20771**

Phone: **301-286-9230**

Fax: **301-286-1755**

Email: **robin.m.dixon@nasa.gov**

Number and type of Users/Patrons: **10,000+, including civil servants, onsite and off-site contractors, interns and emeritus**

Number of Staff (federal and contracted): **17**

Total Annual Budget from all sources, including salaries, acquisitions and other operating expenditures: **\$3.6M**

Additional Comments or Explanations: _____

Nomination Form

NOMINATOR:

Name: **Robin Dixon**
Title: **Branch Chief**
Organization: **NASA Goddard Space Flight Center**
Preferred Address: **8800 Greenbelt Rd**
City: **Greenbelt** State: **MD** Zip: **20771**
Phone: **301-286-9230**
Fax: **301-286-1755**
Email: **robin.m.dixon@nasa.gov**
Relationship to Nominee: **Branch Chief**

Nomination Statement (*Mandatory*): I believe the nominee should be Federal Library & Information Center of the Year for Fiscal Year 2016 because The Goddard Library/Goddard Information and Collaboration Center (GIC2) dynamically and innovatively transformed its physical space and expanded services, to provide the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center with an excellent, highly sought and utilized resource and facility that meets the evolving needs of its cutting-edge research community.

Signature:

Date:

1/13/17

MANAGEMENT APPROVAL (Organization above the Library/Information Center):

Name: **James M. Debelius**
Title: **Chief**
Organization: **Information and Logistics Division, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center**

Statement of approval: I approve this nomination for Library/Information Center for Fiscal Year 2016.
Comment: _____

Signature:

Date:

1/13/17

Selection Criteria Statements for Large Federal Library of the Year

Section I: Mission Support

NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, plays a pivotal role across all aspects of NASA's missions from development to de-orbit. More than fifty Goddard-managed spacecraft explore Earth, probe the universe, and soar through the solar system. Goddard's missions support multiple scientific disciplines, including Earth science, solar physics and the Sun-Earth environment, planetary studies, and astrophysics.

Over the years, the Library battled multiple threats of closure and staff reductions. The physical library closed for almost 10 months, but through the persistence of the Library staff and advocacy of the Goddard research community, the library re-opened. Faced with uncertainty, the Library engaged stakeholders from the Goddard community including management, scientists, engineers, educators, and administrators to re-envision the Library as a collaborative space for meetings, research and study. After approval by Goddard management, a 9-month renovation project began to re-make the Library.

Following the renovation, the Goddard Library, renamed the NASA Goddard Information & Collaboration Center (GIC²), transformed the original midcentury architecture into a bright and airy collaboration hub and meeting area. A multi-use facility was created to accommodate groups of any size and needs, while still meeting the research needs of the community by offering state-of-the-art Library and information services. The GIC² is completely configurable and modular featuring a video wall for presentations; modular seating with whiteboards; tech pods with large-screen monitors that enable wireless screen sharing; and a computer bar and stations for laptop use.

The GIC² supports the Center mission by providing access to print and digital collections, reference and in-depth research services, interlibrary loan, and the Goddard Institutional Repository as well as new and innovative offerings including a collaborative space, 3D printer services, and housing the Goddard Archives. To meet the growing needs of the Goddard community, the GIC² has increased hours, which has been matched by an increase in visitors, interlibrary loan requests, and reference and research questions.

The re-opening of the Library as the GIC² in March 2016 brought the Goddard community back to make use of the new facility for collaboration, meetings, and research. GIC² traffic increased over 300% compared to a similar period before the renovations, and information and research requests increased dramatically by over 53%.

The GIC² offers the GSFC community an open and inviting area for meetings, collaboration activities, and technology that supports their creative ideas. Patrons have indicated that the GIC² provides an ideal atmosphere for new and innovation discussions with colleagues that would not have occurred if the facility were not available to their team. Over ninety groups, including the International Space Station Multilateral Safety and Mission Assurance Group, the NASA Office of Communications, and the International Docking Standards Group, used the GIC² to host events, which included the Space Weather Workshop and the Our Red Planet Mars Citizen Scientist Workshop, drawing over 1,200 attendees between May to November 2016.

The GIC² also includes a new Archives program and Goddard Archivist, which supports Goddard's mission by ensuring that the researchers' legacy is preserved and made accessible for future generations. Although the GIC² floorplan was finalized prior to the establishment of the Goddard Archives, the flexible and innovative Library staff repurposed facility space to incorporate this additional role into the GIC² strategy and footprint.

To date, the Goddard Archivist has electronically cataloged or indexed over 4,600 technical reports, which comprised over 110 linear feet of material. Additionally, the Archivist sought physical and intellectual control of holdings representing over 60 linear feet of unprocessed historical materials that were collected over the past 50 years. In preparation for new mobile shelving to be installed in Spring 2017, extensive appraisal, disposal, housing, and moving of existing materials was required in this newly-designated Archives space.

At the March 18, 2016, reopening, Goddard Director Chris Scolese said, "Having a collaborative space like this coupled with research resources is an incredible capability to have. Sharing information is something Goddard prides itself in, and this space enables that for all of Goddard, NASA, and other organizations as well."

Section II: Creativity/Innovation in Services for FY16

The physical library space underwent extensive renovations from June 1, 2015 to March 18, 2016, spanning both FY15 and 16. Throughout the renovation period, staff was not physically located in the Library, but undertook several innovative programs in order to meet customer needs without interruption in basic library services. In order to meet customers' needs, special arrangements were made to allow 24/7 customer access to the bookstacks, circumventing the construction areas, and providing manual self-checkout; mobile librarian services were offered around Center so that customers could interact with librarians near their office locations; and a temporary information desk was staged in the lobby of the Library facility. Throughout the renovation, staff were available via phone and email and electronic services were available 24/7.

Reference support for the Goddard research community continues to be the core GIC² service. From citation verification to customized literature analyses, librarians continue to deliver traditional research as well as innovative research support. Requests are submitted in person, by phone, via email, and through the Ask-a-Librarian service. Some examples of in-depth searches taken on for patrons include:

- Conducted extensive literature reviews on the Earth Science Data and Information Systems (ESDIS) project, and provided bibliometric data clean-up and analysis support.
- At the request of a film studio, located images of the control room that received images from Landsat-1 for use in a feature film.
- For a book manuscript, verified citations and accessed full text for the Landsat Legacy program.
- Conducted a comprehensive literature review on Indian Monsoon drought forecasting.
- For a long-term and ongoing project, conducted literature reviews on landslides, which included development of an annotated bibliography organized by state and other criteria, to help map landslides and link occurrences with rainfall data.
- Using primary data sources, researched properties of metals, ceramics, and glass to identify performance at extremely low temperatures for documenting how these materials would perform on spacecraft.

Particularly during the renovation, outreach became especially important. Several webinars and programs were undertaken to keep customers informed and engaged:

- Interacted with over 200 Goddard researchers at the annual Goddard Science Jamboree event.
- Sponsored vendor-led training sessions to promote new product features and increase search efficiency.
- Implemented the BrowZine product to seamlessly deliver e-journal content to mobile devices.
- Conducted Library orientations for summer Intern outreach programs.
- Implemented three free trials of scientific and technical databases for summer interns.

Library stakeholders and Center leadership were heavily involved in the design phase of the library reconstruction that informed the choice of furniture, lighting, technology, tech pod configurations, and features that accent the library. The GIC² has become the Center's premiere facility for offering a supportive and engaging environment for employee generated ideas, collaborative meetings, and intriguing colloquiums. From an informal multi-pod setup to a theater-style layout for classroom instruction, such as hosting STEM Teacher Workshops for the Education Department, the GIC² furniture was selected to accommodate multiple groups of different sizes and needs. As groups use the space, the layout can vary on a daily basis as furniture is moved or rearranged to suit different needs. Moreover, customers have access to a staff dedicated to ensuring success for each workshop, meeting, and event through the use of event planning, human-centered innovation theories, and using best practices used within the agency for bringing cross-disciplinary teams and experts.

A notable event held in the GIC² was a partnership with team of emerging leaders who designed and implemented GSFC's first Innovatathon, a 24-hour challenge where 8 teams used the facility to generate ideas and proposals that were presented to senior leader in areas of engineering, flight projects, procurement, and education. The Innovatathon was the first of multiple workshops and activities that were led by employees and teams to encourage innovation and collaboration.

The GIC² began offering 3D printing services. This service, available to the entire community, allowed customers to experiment with the new technology in a centralized location accessible to all. Some objects printed included customized wrenches, tools and apertures for mission related work, astronomical binoculars, as well as supporting interns and their projects. Furthermore, our goal is to foster knowledge and development of this growing technology.

Section III: Customer Satisfaction

The GIC² staff prides themselves on maintaining a high level of customer satisfaction both through the renovation and beyond. The following comments were received unsolicited from customers who used library services over the past fiscal year:

- "...I should say that one of your dedicated librarians gave me a great tour of your space and talked to me at length about the renovations and changes. It was obvious that he was proud to work at the GICC, and I can see why."
- "I am always impressed in your abilities to find these obscure (to me at least) documents. I needed this for a report I am writing on reaction wheel technology, so thanks very much!"
- "Thank you! This is very helpful. As I told you, I have been trying various ways to get this article, and nothing worked before. I needed help from the professional."
- "We used it today for a big mission proposal, so this was a lifesaver. Thanks to the library."
- "No problem!!! I can see it fine and that response time has me dancing!!!"
- "Fantastic! Give my thanks to April for working her magic!"
- "Michael Chesnes provided an invaluable technical service by providing research on microelectronic copper wire bonds. The quantity of 14 technical papers provided will be used to develop an overview paper for NASA HQ. Michael's great help was much appreciated! "

At the Code 200 Management Operations Directorate (MOD) Annual Awards Ceremony on June 2, 2016, members of the GIC² staff were part of the team that received the group Teamwork Award: *"For your professional efforts and excellence teamwork for transforming the Building 21 Library into a modern multi-use facility known as the Goddard Information and Collaboration Center."*

Repeatedly, library staff receive feedback that the Collaboration Center is what they had envisioned in a creative space for NASA employees, researchers, and scientific community. The GIC² has now become an agency asset for hosting "out of the box" creative meetings and workshops with an emphasis on learning, dialogue, and innovation.

The GIC² received many accolades from users of the collaborative space including:

Submitted by Dr. Jane Rigby, Astrophysicist and Deputy Operations Project Scientist for James Webb Space Telescope:
"Our two-day collaboration meeting at the GIC² was a great success! The technology pod was a well-set up place to work, with comfy chairs, and a sharable monitor so we could rapidly exchange presenters. The environment was pleasant, with natural light and a good level of noise. The team was responsive to our A/V questions. The venue compared favorably with meeting spaces we could have reserved at a university."

Submitted by Aries Keck, NASA Goddard Social Media Team Lead:
"I've not only been satisfied with the Library staff's work. I've been astounded at how flexible, welcoming, gracious and professional they've been every time I use the library staff. They're wonderful. It's wonderful to have a space where you can just walk in with your team members and use a white board, do planning, and otherwise brainstorm. It's important to have places like this that are away from our 'usual desks' it very much helps the team focus on the task at hand and bring forward more innovative thinking. Also the area is very impressive looking, and thus I use it for meeting with people outside of Goddard and NASA as a way of showcasing in a visual way our capabilities."

Goddard leadership recognized the need for a center-wide archival program to provide a centralized approach for the preservation of the center's legacy; until now, there was no archival program in place, and over 55 years of scientific history was neither accessible nor usable by Center staff. Because of the Library's innovation support for the mission, Center management advocated its placement within the GIC². Staff across the Center are excited to finally have this function at the center-wide level. The Goddard Archives provides customers with a way to preserve their legacy for future use and continued discovery.

Customer Testimonials

Submitted by Dr. Jeffrey Livas, Astrophysicist, Chief, Gravitational Astrophysics Laboratory

"GSFC's main library facility has, until recently, had very limited operating hours due to funding challenges. In the meantime, they have been creative at making sure the services and facilities are available in other ways. The Library also makes an effort to keep things convenient. For example, the library maintains a table in the lobby of the building where I work and staffs it regularly during the week. There is also have a book drop in the main mailroom where materials may be returned. More recently the main library has become available as a meeting area, and apparently there is a 3D printer available.

"It is at the table in the lobby of my building (the "Mobile Librarian") where I struck up a conversation with Michael Chesnes, a Reference Librarian whom I had met in the main library some time ago where he had helped me conduct a search for information. As part of that conversation Michael asked what sort of projects I was working on, and we started talking about optical materials for telescopes. I described the difficulties I was having finding relevant information. Michael volunteered to help, and in April of 2016 I sent him a copy of a spreadsheet I had put together showing the range of materials and the properties we needed. The goal is to produce a table and a graph of key materials properties as a function of temperature for several different materials of interest.

"Michael does not have any specialized background in materials research, but he knows how to find information, and he did a great job. This project has a number of challenges. First, the information is scattered all over, and often is in the form of journal articles, which can be difficult to find and difficult to interpret. Second, the information is often not tabulated, but presented as a graph, which requires estimating the values from the graph. Third, the information is often presented in a variety of different units, including English engineering units rather than standard SI values, and must be converted to standard units in order to be compared with other measurements. Fourth, the information is often just not available under the conditions where we will be operating, so it is necessary to interpolate or estimate from the measured values to what we need. And, finally, some of the measurements do not agree, and it is not always clear why.

"Michael identified many of these issues, and he also kept track of the sources and recorded citations, He was able to pull together records in a variety of different formats, some of which are just images and therefore difficult to process the same way as text. He pursued this project over several months, beginning in April 2016 and continuing through September. His work and the information he provided has been a tremendous help at moving our project forward.

"We definitely benefited from his knowledge and skills at finding information, and I would say this goes well beyond the normal efforts of a reference library, at least in my experience. A library that can assist its customers by providing this sort of experience should definitely be considered for Library of the Year."

Submitted by Edward J. Wollack, Research Astrophysicist

"As a scientist within the National Aeronautics and Space Administration timely access to research is an important element of carrying out our mission. The resources provided by the Goddard Space Flight Center Library have been a key to my group's efforts to efficiently identifying existing solutions to challenges and making the connections which enable new technological innovation and scientific insights. From the onset one does not necessarily know the where the clue to solve the problems at hand may originate. In the internet era one clearly has access to a wide range of information -- the challenge at times is finding the desired piece of the puzzle in this expansive and multidisciplinary virtual realm. The library staff has proven adept at finding information from disciplines beyond my immediate expertise as well as conveying new insights into how to independently perform related literature searches. This is where the GSFC Library has truly added value to our physical research efforts on center. These efforts are appreciated and valued -- by finding what from the onset may appear to be an obscure bit of trivia which in the end holds an insight to solving technical challenges at hand -- they have played a key and at times behind the scenes role in NASA's efforts to explore our Universe."

Submitted by Terry Arvidson, System Engineer

"During Fiscal Year 2016, I had two major areas of interaction with the Goddard library and was very satisfied with each.

In my role as editor of more than 1360 endnotes in the Landsat Legacy history book, many with multiple citations, I needed to capture a digital copy of the cited document or article (or at least a scan of the front matter in the case of tomes and published books) for the Landsat Legacy library. First, by virtue of the Goddard library's access to many journals' archives, I was able to download articles from past issues. Gene Major and Michael Chesnes of the Goddard library, and the library's supporting staff, were instrumental in locating over fifty-five obscure articles and papers, often from discontinued journals, through interlibrary loans and online searches, and occasionally using personal contacts to pull favors for a copy. Once located, if not already digitized, they scanned the documents. The associated publication dates ranged from the late 1800s to the present day, so it was a monumental task. The library was able to locate every document I requested of them. This allowed me to compile a complete digital library of all our book's citations, which will form an important part of our book's online presence.

"As the self-appointed manager of our nascent Landsat Legacy library, I turned to the newly appointed Goddard Archivist, Holly McIntyre-Dewitt, for information and advice. She educated me on the differences between archives and libraries and collections, options for cataloguing our materials, advice on identifying, documenting, and legalizing material sources, and provided me with references and definition documents. We discussed the Legacy Library with USGS and NASA Records Managers, and determined that locating the library at the USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science center was the way forward, especially with the archive certifications being pursued by the USGS managers. Now that the Goddard Archivist position exists, and she has been briefed on our Legacy efforts, we feel much more confident that as aging records in the Federal Records Centers reach their retention end dates, we will be notified of their status and have a say in their eventual disposition. This is a major relief to those of us interested in preserving as much of the gray literature from the 40-year Landsat program as we can, given the hit-or-miss nature of such notification before this position was established. When I have found materials from other NASA programs intermixed with our Landsat records, Holly has reviewed the materials and let me know whether she wished to acquire them for the Goddard (or other NASA) archive or whether they could be appropriately dispositioned. As the Legacy Library gets formalized in the coming years, I look forward to working with Holly to achieve a quality collection."

Submitted by Laura E.P. Rocchio, Landsat Communication and Public Engagement Team

"During fiscal year 2016, the NASA Goddard Library was instrumental in my work as a science writer. There were numerous times when I had to access journal articles that were unavailable online because of either institutional subscription limits or document age. In these instances I turned to Gene Major and his team at the Goddard Library to help me track down copies of the articles. The Goddard Library staff repeatedly was able to find (and digitalize when necessary) these materials and email them to me.

"In one highly noteworthy example, April Tinsley from the Goddard Library was able to find another Library that had access to *Journal of Archaeological Science* and obtain an article on the use of Landsat to detect shipwrecks. Using this article and the contact information for its authors I was able to write a story that appeared on the Landsat Science website, NASA.gov, and NASA's Earth Observatory:

- **Landsat 8 Used to Pinpoint Shipwrecks**
- **Satellites & Shipwrecks: Landsat Satellite Spots Foundered Ships in Coastal Waters**
- **Sediments Betray Hidden Shipwrecks**

Additionally, the Goddard Library helped me run a query to find how many Landsat-based studies were published in *Nature* and *Science* in 2015. They also provided metadata files for the Landsat Legacy document archive when requested. And lastly, in an interesting aside, an art department designer working for Warner Bros. contacted the Goddard Library inquiring how the Landsat 1 ground control station had looked. Gene Major provided the artist with video clips from an early 1970s educational film about Landsat 1, which helped the art team create something similar looking for the movie Kong: Skull Island. The artist later told Gene, "That video was invaluable, and our designer and decorator referred to it constantly!"

Submitted by Robert Startzel, TRAX International

"In an uncertain world, one thing we can depend upon, is change. Some changes are good, some not so much. Some are dramatic, others are subtle. Ultimately, however, they are all impactful and dynamic. How do we keep up? Gone are the days when a library was little more than a warehouse for books. The Goddard Library has always been at the leading edge of change management. Articles, publications, compendiums of information in a multitude of forms and media. The archiving and dissemination of amassed knowledge. In short, a veritable fountainhead of inspiration and the headwaters of new ideas.

"As we continue our journey through the 21st century, Goddard Library has not only met the challenge, they have anticipated the future needs of their clientele, offering new services and providing new technologies to help nurture the formation of new ideas and concepts; providing tools congruent with partnership and collaboration. As an example, the Library recently made a significant investment in new technologies which support and promote collaborative meetings and added well-equipped spaces for meetings; not just meetings of people, but of minds.

"This is the direction we must follow, if we are to excel in a world in which rapid change is the norm. Goddard Library has always been, and continues to be, a powerful force in that effort."

Submitted by Kim West, Trainer and Recruiter, Graham, Inc.

"Our experience with the library was excellent. We held several of our (sic) 2016 Teacher Workshops in your facility. Impact on our workshops was highly favorable. Holding workshops in a space that is extremely visually pleasing with 2-story windows - light adjustable with filters, spacious rooms with modular furniture and a massive display screen gave the instant impression of a progressive learning environment.

"Individual attendees commented that the furniture, especially the option to sit in the leather club chair/desks, during the session was a high-comfort luxury.

"Satisfaction experienced by attendees, speakers and facilitators was outstanding. The GIC² team was rapidly responsive to our questions in the planning stage, showing great efficiency of their facility availability and calendar scheduling. They were quite service-oriented and proactive in providing date options if any conflict was possible for future dates. This allowed us maximum time to re-confirm speakers and attendees.

"GIC² team members were friendly, knowledgeable and always on hand throughout our day-long sessions to lend any technical assistance needed at all.

"Innovation displayed was state-of-the-art. We are certain that the equipment, furniture, versatility and functionality of the Goddard Library rivals any high-tech company in Palo Alto, California! Modular seating groups, workbars with stools for meetings, moveable partitions with whiteboards, low-slung, modern seating pods with high-back fabric walls for displaying presentations-in-progress, and all of which are completely wired for any computer or projection needs we may have had -- this was useful and extremely impressive."

Briana Horton, Executive Assistant to GSFC Center Director Chris Scolese

"Since the reopening of the Goddard Library, renamed the GIC², the Center Director's Office has used the space several times for several different events. Since we host several large groups throughout the year, ranging from Ambassadors, heads of other agencies, and partner space agencies (to name a few), we require a space that offers space, advanced technology, and a place for conversation. The GIC² offers all of that and more. For each one of the meetings that have been held in the GIC² has been met with extreme satisfaction and awe from the participants. It presents a pleasant and welcome environment different from the conference rooms across center. The staff of the GIC² is nothing but accommodating to our needs and is always willing to make things work on short notice.

“With all of the new capabilities and features, we are able to hold several different types of meetings in the GIC². The kitchenette allows for lunch meetings to occur outside of the noisy cafeteria or cramped conference rooms. The adjustable conference spaces allow for small or large meetings to be hosted in a private environment.”

William P. Barry, D. Phil., NASA Chief Historian

I am delighted to endorse the nomination of the Goddard Information and Collaboration Center (GIC²) for the FY2016 Large Federal Library of the Year. It is a spectacular, customer-oriented facility that is well-deserving of recognition for a number of reasons. But, I will comment on just one of the many reasons that deserve your consideration - and that is the establishment of the Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) Archives in 2016.

GSFC is one of NASA's biggest and most active scientific and operational centers, but, sadly, is little known to the public. One reason for that lack of recognition is that the Center has not had any sort of archival effort since the history office was eliminated over a decade ago due to financial pressures. The result was an uncoordinated proliferation of personal and office collections that were inaccessible to the larger community. Starting in about 2012, with strong support from GSFC leadership and the senior scientists there we were able to build momentum and carve out funding for the creation of a Center archive. It turned out that the biggest obstacle was finding an appropriate facility. This is where the GIC² staff saved the day. Not only did they enthusiastically offer space for the archive during planning for their renovation, but the staff became powerful champions for the archive. This meant that the newly-hired (in October 2016) archivist, Holly McIntyre-Dewitt, could hit the ground running and establish a functional office in record time. Not only that, but in Spring 2016, GSFC hosted the annual NASA history, and archives Program Review. The facilities (including the video wall) and the incredible staff at GIC² made all of Holly's colleagues from NASA centers across the United States green with envy.

GIC² deserves recognition by many measures, but the incredible contribution they have made to helping Goddard Space Flight Center capture and communicate its history to both public and internal stakeholders is deserving of special recognition. Thanks for your consideration of this nomination.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
Greenbelt, MD 20771



Reply to Attn of: Code 200

FEDLINK Library of the Year Awards Committee
Library of Congress
101 Independence Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20540-4935

Dear Awards Committee Member:

It is my absolute pleasure to recommend The Goddard Information and Collaboration Library Center (GICLC) for Federal Library of the Year.

I serve as the Director of the Management Operations Directorate at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. The GICLC falls within my purview as a part of the Information and Logistics Management Division.

The GICLC is the result of an idea initially formulated and presented to Center Management by the library leadership team. As the majority of library resources transitioned from hard copies to electronic, the use of the physical facility declined as researchers availed themselves of electronic resources and subscriptions available on their desktops. The library leadership recognized the potential opportunity for repurposing the physical library space to a much needed meeting, networking, and collaboration space.

A Center-wide committee, composed of scientists, engineers, public affairs specialists, architects, interior designers, and of course, librarians met for several months to determine the new focus and purpose of the former library reading room space. The newly repurposed facility is an interactive and flexible environment capable of adapting to meet the changing needs of a dynamic research environment. The GICLC is an inviting and visually beautiful space that maximizes the use of technology and functionality to create a place for collaboration, community, networking, and contemplative research and study.

The GICLC has become a valuable asset to the Goddard community in a very short time. It is a sought after location for Center level events, including VIP receptions, innovation seminars, and brainstorming roundtables, as well as a place for in-depth reference/research assistance, 3D printing and study. Since the redesign in March 2016, use of the physical space has increased nearly 300% over the same time period in previous years.

The redesign of the GICLC has created a vibrant, interactive environment that is serving as a catalyst to expand the Center's intellectual commons. It not only integrates the past (print collections) with the present (virtual and multimedia technologies), it provides a place for community, collaboration and inspiration. I am excited about the success of the new GICLC and the way it facilitates creative thinking and visionary research and am proud to submit it as a candidate for the 2017 Federal Library of the Year.

Sincerely,



Raymond J. Rubilotta
Director, Management Operations